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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2937
INFO RUEHDX/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 6355
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUFGNOA/HQ USEUCOM EXERCISE VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 000176

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [NATO PREL RS](#)

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN DCM: NRC MINISTERIAL POSTPONED, NOT
CANCELED

Classified By: Acting Political Advisor A. "Hoot" Baez. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (C/REL NATO) During the May 7 meeting of the NATO-Russia Council's (NRC's) Preparatory Committee, Russian DCM Soltanovskiy said that Moscow had decided to postpone until a more appropriate time--not cancel--the planned NRC Foreign Ministerial. At the same time, he sharply criticized the Alliance's "shameless" decision to expel two Russian diplomats, adding that the decision had "gravely worsened" the atmosphere of NATO-Russia relations. He said that Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov intended to discuss these issues with Secretary Clinton during their May 7 meeting.

[¶2.](#) (C/REL NATO) Soltanovskiy also said that Moscow would not consider restarting NRC military-to-military cooperation until after the Foreign Ministerial, arguing that the full resumption of political dialogue needed to precede mil-mil cooperation.

VOLKER